

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE. ... LUNAR, March 21, 1861.

A number of bills were reported favorably from the Standing Committee, among them are the following:

The bill to revise the proceedings of the Central Park, extending its area.

The bill to incorporate the Bellevue Hospital College.

The bill to widen Main street, Brooklyn.

The PRESIDENT presented a communication from W. C. C. R. in relation to the erection of a monument commemorative of the Declaration of Independence.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. MANIERE—Extending the letter for the incorporation of Fire Insurance Companies in the State over all foreign companies and agencies not incorporated under the State law.

By Mr. MANIERE—To enable the Supervisors of New York to acquire lands for the building of a Court-House. The bill is the same as that introduced in the Assembly.

By Mr. ROBERTSON—Creating the office of a Reporter of the Superior Court, to be appointed by the Secretary of State, Controller, and Attorney-General, and to hold office five years.

Relative to the bills of Fire Insurance Companies.

To amend the Charter of the Jewish Society for the Education of Poor Children.

To increase the compensation of State Prison physicians.

To facilitate the trial of civil actions.

The resolutions of the Special Committee on Federal Relations coming up for special order, Mr. FIERO, after debate, moved to postpone them indefinitely.

Carried by a vote of Yeas 13, Nays 12. Messrs. Abell, Kelly, Ramsey, Robinson, Spindler, and Williams, were absent. This vote will probably be reconsidered.

J. M. KEOH and H. H. H. moved for an adjournment of the bill to the Police Commissioners to the inquiry made by the Police Commissioners to the Southern States.

The PRESIDENT stated that no reply had been received.

Mr. MURPHY—Well, there is no way to compel them to take notice of the action of the Senate?

The PRESIDENT—None, unless the Senate declare them in contempt.

The subject was here dropped.

The bill appropriating \$50,000 to the State Agricultural College was debated in the Committee of the Whole.

Progress was reported.

ASSEMBLY.

Gov. Morgan, through his private Secretary, Mr. Doty, transmitted a joint resolution of Congress proposing to the several State Legislatures an article amendatory of the Constitution, providing that any State which shall have the power to abolish or interfere with any State with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service, such amendment to be valid when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures.

In transmitting the resolutions the Governor said: "The amendment proposed is one which will commend itself to the judgment of the people of the State, and to the people of the United States, who have avowed the doctrine of the right of the States respectively to control their own domestic institutions in such a manner as they may judge most conducive to their prosperity and happiness. While New York is unanimously opposed to the institution of slavery, and the Southern States are equally opposed to the interference with their internal policy, who is unequalled in favor of extending any proper Constitutional guarantee to the Southern States against the exercise of any power to interfere with or abolish the domestic institutions therein. An amendment to the Constitution, such as is now proposed, would be accepted by the Southern States, and would be a great benefit to the Southern States to preserve them for all time their Constitutional rights. He would respectfully and earnestly recommend the adoption of the resolution herewith transmitted."

(Signed) E. D. MORGAN.

Mr. COZANS, by consent, introduced a bill for the relief of James Savage and Thomas Kane, of New York.

The bill to amend the Brooklyn Broadway Railroad act passed. Also a bill to amend the law relative to exempting ministers of the gospel from taxation.

Mr. BERGEN called from the table the bill to grant certain privileges to the South Side Railroad.

Mr. TUTTILL moved to strike out the enacting clause.

A warm debate ensued, Messrs. Bergen and Kernan advocating the bill, and Mr. Tutill opposing it.

Mr. YOUNG opposed the bill on the ground that it allowed light rail to be laid on the road, and his experience of ten years had convinced him that life was not made where steam is run over a light rail. On this ground alone he voted against the bill.

The motion to strike out the enacting clause was lost, and the bill passed.

The bill to legislate the action of the New York Common Council in relation to the appointment of Messengers in the Bureau of Unemployed Buildings.

The Annual Supply bill.

The bill to amend the Queens County Savings Bank Charter.

The bill to incorporate the Western Scott Guard of New York.

The bill to amend the act for the regulation of the Central Park.

The New-York Annual County Tax Levy bill.

A motion by Mr. JONES to reconsider the bill, with amendments to the Committee to insert \$250,000 for the Harlem Bridge, was lost.

To authorize the construction of street railroads in Syracuse.

The bill to preserve game in Suffolk and Queens Counties.

Some twenty private bills were also passed.

The weather being unusually stormy, several attempts were made to adjourn over till to-morrow morning, but were defeated by objections being raised.

Mr. BUCKLER offered a resolution for the adjournment of the Assembly till to-morrow morning, which was carried by a vote of 10 yeas and 10 nays.

Mr. WEBSTER offered a preamble and resolution declaring:

Whereas, The public were not desirous for a large amount of legislation, and whereas, all the bills which have been introduced in the House to work all day long to a desire to have time to secure all the bills rather than to regard the public good, therefore,

Resolved, That the afternoon session be abolished.

Messrs. BENEDICT and WOODRUFF also offered resolutions of a similar character—all of them being of course objected to.

The House adjourned till to-morrow morning.

SUICIDE OF ABSON, THE WIFE-POISONER.

CORONER'S INQUEST, AND LETTERS OF THE DECEASED.

William Abson, the wife-poisoner, closed his mortal career by committing suicide in his cell, in the Hudson County Jail, yesterday morning, at 2 o'clock. Up to Wednesday forenoon he had expressed a strong hope and belief that his sentence would be commuted, but being informed on that day by Sheriff Francis that the Court of Arches had refused to grant the petition, he gave up in despair. Previous to this a watchman had been employed to keep a strict watch over him at night; but on Monday last, an attempt having been made by a brother of the condemned man to pass himself off as the prisoner, the Sheriff determined to use increased precaution to prevent Abson from carrying out his threat that he "would never be hanged."

An additional watchman was accordingly employed in order that he might be watched every moment. Both night and day. On Wednesday afternoon Constable Chase proceeded to make a thorough search of the cell, bedding and clothing of the culprit. He found in the skirt of the coat, between the lining and outside, three strands of a rope, from two to three feet each in length, an eightpenny nail ground sharp at the front, a piece of tin three-fourths of an inch wide at one end, and running to a sharp point in the collar of the vest, and a needle in the wadding of the vest. The prisoner was confined on the third corridor front, was removed to a cell on the opposite side and a little further back. This cell was also searched, and new bedding placed in it. During the afternoon Mr. Abson was visited by the Rev. Mr. French and the Rev. Mr. Smyth, with whom he engaged in devotional exercises, and also by his oldest daughter, between whom there was an affectionate bond.

The oldest daughter, Elizabeth, said she wished that she could die before her father, who had been so good and kind to her, and that they might both be buried together in one grave. Her father, with tears streaming down his face, said that he had often prayed that God would take his life. Abson retired to bed about 8 o'clock, and shortly after, apparently, went to sleep. The watchman, Baldwin, remained near the cell door until about 12 o'clock, when he called up the other watchman, Allen. The latter was on duty about an hour, when he heard a low guttural sound, and, stepping to the door, spoke to Abson, but not receiving an answer, supposed that he was having a troubled dream. A short time after, Abson exclaimed, "Oh, my God! Oh, Jesus Christ!" He then took the candle and looked into the cell, when he saw Abson with his left arm against the wall, making an effort to raise himself up, and at the same time he discovered blood spurting against the wall.

Allen at once raised an alarm, and Dr. Hornbush was sent for. In the mean time the jailer, Mr. Newkirk, and Allen bound up a wound which had been inflicted in Abson's left arm, and when the doctor arrived the blood had ceased flowing. At that time it was not discovered that a gash an inch deep had been made in the neck just below the left ear. Abson appeared to experience great pain in the region of the heart, and placing his hand there desired some one to press on it. He then sank gradually, and about 2 o'clock expired. Subsequently the blade of a jack-knife about two inches in length was found rolled up in the blanket. This instrument, it is thought, he may have conveyed into the room secreted in his mouth.

The news of Abson's death spread rapidly, and caused considerable excitement, and there was a general expression of gratification, as the orphan children could not otherwise be told that their father had died upon the scaffold.

Coroners Gaffney and Donnelly impeached a Jury at 10 o'clock, and after viewing the body they adjourned until 1 p. m. for the purpose of procuring witnesses.

The following is the principal evidence taken:

Sherriff Francis testified that he caused Mr. Abson to be searched on Wednesday afternoon, and had employed another watchman to watch him during the night. He had no conversation with him, and did not see anything in the condemned man's manner to lead him to suppose that he was contemplating suicide.

Mr. Newkirk, the jailer, testified that he was on duty at the time of the suicide, and that he saw Abson when he was taken to the cell. He had no conversation with him, and did not see anything in his manner to lead him to suppose that he was contemplating suicide.

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men as to who should have possession of this bit of iron—the brakeman, and then the conductor securing it for alternate moments.

A bystander says, that as the car fell into the chasm, cries and shrieks arose, mingled with and continued after the noise of the water and the crash of the falling train.

The passengers, consisting of three ladies and fourteen men, who, as remarked above, had been more or less jammed about, soon climbed up the ascent and emerged through the rear door, having sustained little injury beside the fright, save that in one case a lady had one or two teeth knocked out. Meanwhile the three unfortunate in the little smoking-room were screaming for help and seizing by turns the anchor in the roof. A couple of axes had been brought from the schooner close by, and a hole cut through the top of the room, which gave the men a little air, or possibly they would have been suffocated. But the iron was too obstinate a material, and the position of the ax-wielders being too disadvantageous, it was thought, to allow a hole large enough for egress to be made before the men should be exhausted, one of the windows of the car, said to have been two or three feet under water, was broken open by the brakeman, and the three men successively passed down and crawled through it, being picked up at once, and either taken into the Patterson cars or to the house of the draw-keeper, Mr. Parker. They are believed to have been in the water from fifteen to twenty minutes. One had become crazed, and it was with difficulty that he could be restrained from jumping back into the river.

The engineer, according to his own account, went down with the engine, one hand holding upon the "throttle valve," and the other upon the "reverse lever." He knew that the water was from 25 to 30 feet deep, and when something struck him heavily upon the outside of his hip he felt certain he should be crushed within a second. But he did not get out, and rose to the surface about 100 feet distant from the spot where he went down. Swimming about, he observed a rope that swung from the top of the draw. He got hold of the rope, wound it out bit by bit, and finally succeeded in crawling up on a portion of the pier that jutted out and formed a little shelf. Here he lay quietly until he saw that the men had been rescued from the car, when he shouted for help. He was taken, in nearly a frozen condition, into a Patterson car, where his frozen garments were stripped off; he was put into others which were volunteered, one article by one passenger and one by another, and propped up on cushions before the stove. When offered some brandy he said he never drank any, but would on that occasion.

The fireman, Theodore Van Buren, was missing. It appears that he jumped into the water just as the engine rushed over the draw, swam round for a few minutes, and was taken on board a water craft, where he was found before a fire just as he had got pretty well thawed out.

All were saved. The engineer was injured more than any one else, but he is merely bruised a little about the hands, and received a flesh-wound on the outside of the left hip. He is now at the City Hospital, Jersey City, attended by Dr. Quider, and will be able to be about again in the course of a few days.

The escape of all these passengers from death, or even serious injury, seems about as miraculous as anything on record. It is nearly 20 feet from the floor of the bridge to the surface of the water; the water is 17 feet deep, with a soft, muddy bottom, into which it is thought the engine sank from 10 to 15 feet. Yesterday, the snow storm prevented much being done on the scene of the disaster. Some contractors were on the ground, however, and probably a plan will be adopted to-day to take up the engine. At present, it is, of course, obstructive navigation.

That the passengers were all saved is attributed to two causes: First, the material of which the car was made. Had it been a wooden car, it would probably have broken into two parts, spilling out nearly all the splintering timbers bruising and crushing a portion. Second, the large windows of the car, which allowed the egress of the three persons in the smoking car.

It is quite a serious loss to the Hackensack and New York Railroad Company, as the engine and car were new and superior to any others on the road, the two other locomotives being much smaller. The engine and car cost about \$10,000. The road has been once before unfortunate, although then it was not the fault of its conductors, the train of a contractor on the road running into a hand car and killing a couple of men.

Though the present accident happened on a bridge of the Erie Railroad (about seven miles from Jersey City), the Hackensack is not a branch of the Erie, but an independent, local road, running a part of the distance on the Erie rails, but owned principally by Hackensack, and constructed with the special view of benefitting that place.

OPENING DAY OF THE MILLINERS AND MODISTES.

Oh! ladies of New-York and Brooklyn—ye who are wont to find a balm for all troubles, domestic or otherwise, in a promenade through the various elegant temples of fashion on the high-carriage day of the season—what a disappointment the storm of yesterday brought! And such a storm! A tearing, routing, blinding wind—a blinding, penetrating storm—a thick leaden sky, from which the sun had hopelessly recoiled—and a deluge of mud and water in the streets. The bravest of the folk could scarcely have been expected to brave all this; yet the halls of fashion were not quite deserted. All ladies of taste have an uncomparable love for the capricious goddess, and many, many of them will follow here through storm and sunshine. This will be an eventful year for fashion, and for her lady-follower. The troubles national and political have not dimmed a jewel in the alford goddess's coronet. The true that the calls made upon her by her Southern country friends are not quite so numerous as usual at this season, but her home activity is surprising, all things considered. To brighten the eyes and cheer the hearts of all the lady readers of THE TRIBUNE who dared not face the elements yesterday, a special reporter was dispatched to glean all information to be had relative to the new and beautiful in fashion, for the Spring and Summer season of 1861.

THE DRESS.

There has been a complete change in the form, and trimming of dresses, and one which will create some commotion among ladies short and ladies tall, ladies stout and ladies small. This change has not been brought about without a struggle. For a year past the leading queens of beauty and of fashion—those women who look lovely in any bonnet and every dress—have endeavored to introduce the good skirt, formerly worn by their staid grandmothers. Their efforts were not availing for a time, and many ladies hoped the thing would fail. But the devotees of good skirts persisted, and the year 1861, Spring and Summer, will witness their triumph. The good dress will soon be the rage, and from specimens seen yesterday one feels compelled to say that it must be extremely becoming, especially to tall figures. A strange fact in relation to the good dress is this: They have not been worn since the days of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION. One patriotic grandmothers of those glorious days wore them, and now this unique fashion has returned to adorn the daughters of another day of revolution. Truly, this is a noteworthy fact of fashion.

But the good dress of our time is slightly different from those of the past. The dress of eighty years ago had but two breadths in the skirt, and the waist was directly under the amples. While the one of 1861 has from six to seven yards with around the bottom of the skirt, and a corsage elegantly fitted, being neither too long nor too short. For morning wear the skirt and corsage are out in one piece, with a light or half bishop sleeve. For dinner dress the corsage is detached in front, thus relieving it of its morning robe appearance. The sleeves and skirt are richly and elegantly trimmed. From three to eight small flowers are worn on the bottom of the dress—the corsage very high and plain, and sometimes open

at the throat, empire fashion. Ladies must remember that all elegant dinner and evening dresses will be made with the open flowing sleeves. All negligé and promenade dresses will have the tight puffed or the half open coat sleeve. The muslinette collar and cuffs will be very much worn for morning costume, but small linen bands will be more fashionable.

The new dress goods for the coming season are very chaste and beautiful in pattern. In silks and hares the ground colors for promenade are various shades of gray, brown and green; but the grays seem the favorite colors. English barges will be made in gored dresses, having one large dounce on the bottom of the skirt. English grenadine—a much more elegant and expensive fabric—will be made in seven or eight founces.

A lovely silk, entirely new, is one called the Prince of Wales plume. The design is a white curled curl of plume, with a few leaves of "forget-me-not" entwined, very royal and showy, and certainly very tender, on a plain ground. These silks may be had in all the favorite colors. The color of the "forget-me-not" leaves varies with the color of the silk, and is always the same as the silk, but the plume is white in all. This is the silk of the season, and many pleasant recollections, no doubt, will revive in the hearts of the wearers of the graceful youth it will recall to their minds. Another new feature in silks is the narrow stripe—the pin-stripe, as it is called—which will be a decided favorite. This silk comes also in the various leading colors. A very handsome fabric for late Spring and Summer is the Mozambique cloth. This will be worn a great deal for traveling dresses. It will be made up, of course, in the gored pattern, and will make the neatest and prettiest little gored mantle to match that ever delighted an elegant woman's eyes. The color of the Mozambique cloth is a soft gray, with a silken gloss, and the material is of that most desirable kind for ladies, which never looks tumbled—a sort of very softness. This cloth is nearly two yards wide, and is only \$1.50 per yard.

THE CLOAKS AND MANTLES.

The cloaks for the season will have nothing startlingly new except a blue circular, very long and very full, which has a hood of an indescribable shape, and which, as the saying is, must be seen to be appreciated. The ladies may, however, form some idea of it by supposing a large circular cape, gathered in fan shape in the center, and having the ends folded up and trimmed with very large reverses. This garment is "The Princess Mantle." Black silks and ladies' cloaks will be very much worn in paleots, with deep plain capes. A new article for Summer wear is the Grenadine shawl. There are not many of these pretty shawls imported, but they will form a very gay feature in Summer fashion. They are to be had in pure white, black, with broad border and raised leaves of the most striking colors, and also in blue and brown.

THE BONNETS.

These beautiful things—the bonnets—are thank Heaven, no smaller than those worn in the past season. The new Paris shape is very distinctive, but it will displace some of the ladies who are trying to introduce the flat Marie Stuart forms. Ladies have tried very often to introduce the Marie Stuart, but must yield to fashion and console themselves with the thought that the Marie Stuart bonnet is only becoming to young and handsome faces, and that is the reason they will not take. The new shape for the season is worn very high, close to the lower part of the face, and sloping away much from the top to the crown. At Madame Harris's, in Broadway, some very elegant ones may be seen. One of lavender silk, with a white lace front and a cape of rich